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Agenda item 8

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS:

SECOND REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN TO THE YEAR 2000

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF REGIONAL PREPARATORY CONFERENCES

NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND COMMITMENTS

Note verbale dated 14 September 1995 from the delegation of France to the Fourth World Conference on Women addressed to the secretariat of the Conference

The delegation of the French Republic to the Fourth World Conference on Women would be most grateful if the secretariat of the Conference would have the attached right of reply circulated as an official document of the Conference.

Annex

RIGHT OF REPLY OF THE DELEGATION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

The French delegation regrets that certain delegations have commented in this forum on the resumption by France of nuclear tests, since this question does not specifically relate to women.

France's objective in conducting a final round of nuclear tests is twofold: to conclude a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty in 1996 and to maintain the credibility of its deterrence capability. The final tests which France will conduct are intended not to test a new type of weapon or to alter the country's strategy but, rather, to enable France to guarantee the credibility of its deterrence capability once a nuclear-test-ban treaty has been concluded.

It has been established that the French tests will prove harmless to the environment and to health. The French test site is the one among those used by the nuclear Powers that has been the subject of the most extensive scientific research. The Tazieff, Atkinson and Cousteau missions concluded that French underground tests have had neither any radiological or geological impact nor any effect on fauna or flora. The same results were observed in comparative radioactivity measurements conducted under the authority of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This finding was confirmed by the report submitted by a group of Australian scientists at the meeting of ministers of the environment of the South Pacific Forum on 10 August 1995.

France has requested the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to organize an independent international scientific mission to verify the harmlessness of the French tests once this final round has been completed.

France's attitude in this matter is one of unprecedented openness and transparency.

For example, the President of the French Republic announced the schedule and objectives of this last round of tests more than two months in advance. Many explanations were provided in public statements or in messages to foreign Governments. The national and international press was invited to the site at Mururoa.

France believes that its policy with respect to nuclear testing is appropriate in the new international context, in which nuclear deterrence remains indispensable for stability.

The effort to combat the proliferation of nuclear weapons has assumed renewed importance in this context. The characteristics of France's final round of tests meet the obligation to exercise "utmost restraint" assumed by France and the other States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995 when the Treaty was renewed indefinitely.

Moreover, on 10 August France helped to give new impetus to the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty when it proposed the prohibition of all nuclear-weapon tests or any other nuclear explosion, whatever the magnitude. This choice of the "zero option" for the future nuclear-test-ban treaty clearly demonstrates the desire of France to achieve a complete and definitive halt to nuclear tests. France can achieve this goal only by conducting one final round of tests.

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NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND COMMITMENTS

Letter dated 14 September 1995 from the Ambassador of Turkey to the People's Republic of China addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 13 September 1995 from Mr. Atay Raşit, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, to the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women (see annex).

I would appreciate the publication of that letter as an official document of the Conference.

(Signed) Berhan EKINCI
Ambassador

Annex

LETTER DATED 13 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM MR. ATAY A. RAŞIT

It has come to my attention that the representative of the Greek Cypriot administration of southern Cyprus, purporting to represent the whole of Cyprus at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, has tried to distort the facts on Cyprus in the speech he delivered while you were chairing the forum. In this connection, I would like to bring to your kind attention the following points in addition to those which have already been raised in my previous letter addressed to you on 29 August 1995.

In his speech, the Greek Cypriot representative complained about "invasion" and "occupation" of the island and the so-called "refugee" problem, which has been their propaganda tool for the last 20 years, deceiving world public opinion without mentioning that the problem started 32 years ago and it was the Turkish Cypriot people who were the victims of the above-mentioned complaints for 11 years between 1963 and 1974.

"Invasion" is the very same word Archbishop Makarios, the then Head of the Greek Cypriot administration, used in his speech to the Security Council on 19 July 1974, four days after the coup d'état of the Greek Junta which deposed him, accusing Greece of invading Cyprus with her 20,000 troops stationed on the island since 1964 with the aim of annihilating the Turkish Cypriots.

The savagery against the Turkish Cypriots lasted for 11 years (1963-1974), forcing them out of 103 villages in their own country. A quarter of the Turkish Cypriot population became refugees. Hundreds were killed and buried in mass graves. More than 800 people were taken forcibly from their homes and workplaces by the Greek and Greek Cypriot gunmen, never to be seen again.

As a consequence of the tragic events between 1963 and 1974 and the coup d'état of 15 July 1974, the Turkish intervention was legally carried out in accordance with the rights and obligations of Turkey under the Treaty of Guarantee signed in 1960 by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Turkey and Greece. The Turkish Peace Force was sent to the island not as an "invasion" or "occupation" force, but solely with the objective of re-establishing peace on the island and saving both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots from genocide, thus ending the Greek invasion of the island and preserving its independence.

Since 1974 peace has prevailed on the island, with no one killed or uprooted by intercommunal clashes. The Turkish Cypriot people, exercising their right to self-determination and of their own free will, established in 1983 the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which symbolizes their independence and sovereignty. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a full-fledged State, with all the State organs and democratic institutions functioning freely.

The 1985 Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has granted social, economic, politic and legal rights to Turkish Cypriot women equal to those of men.

About 30-35 per cent of the Turkish Cypriot working population is composed of women. There are 17 women's associations dealing mainly with women's human rights problems, including social, economic and domestic issues, while others perform work towards the advancement of cultural, social and educational activities.

Turkish Cypriot women enjoy legal security, modern rights and freedom in their social life. The broader problem they face is one of human rights violations perpetrated jointly by the Greek Cypriots and Greece against the Turkish Cypriot people.

While awaiting support from the world's women with respect to their problems, Turkish Cypriot women are also appealing to you to stop the human rights violations, lift the embargoes and support them in their efforts to foster relations with international organizations and the world community at large.

(Signed) Atay A. RAŞIT
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Defence